Hurdles in import and export

3053. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a report, co-sponsored by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, has ranked India at 116th place, thus highlighting significant obstacles, including administrative hurdles to import and export, and delays and costs to register property in India, and that an entrepreneur had to submit 15 documents and get 27 signatures to import goods;

(b) if so, are these views reflective of actual happenings or are based on surmises; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take with a view to improve our ranking even when Bangladesh and Pakistan rank 65th and 60th in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (b) Government is aware that India has been placed at 116th rank in terms of 'ease of doing business' as per the report submitted by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation. Having a lower ranking is not directly indicative of a non conducive business environment.

(c) Government is taking steps to simplify procedures including benchmarking of service levels, electronic governance etc. So as to reduce transaction costs and thereby facilitate international trade. Introduction of the facility of online filing of applications for import Licences and online filing of import documents at Customs through ICEGATE would help in expeditious clearance of cargo. Phased introduction of a Risk Management System (RMS) and Accredited Client Program (ACP) has also been put in place for better accountability and transparent decision making based on structured and scientific risk analysis.

Import of Iron Scrap

3054. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDSUTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether over ten thousand metric tonnes of iron scrap is imported